IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claim 1 (Original):   An image decoding method comprising:

receiving an encoded bitstream including information of P and B frames; and

executing motion compensation by synthesizing a predicted image of a current frame using motion vector information included in the encoded bitstream and a reference image which is a previously decoded image,

wherein said motion compensation includes calculating intensity values at points where no pixels actually exist in the reference image by interpolation,

wherein said interpolation is done according to information specifying a positive rounding method or a negative rounding method when the current frame is a P frame, and

wherein said interpolation is done using a predetermined rounding method which is a positive rounding method or a negative rounding method when the current frame is a B frame.

Claim 2 (Original):   An image decoding method according to claim 1, wherein said predetermined rounding method is a positive rounding method.

Claims 3-6 (Cancelled):